



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor delaCruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Pat Poland.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2013-0284 Proclamation Recognizing David Preka

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Cerf.

2013-0302 Proclamation Recognizing John Rolf-Dieter Glasfeld

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Frink.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Lian Obrey, 141 Shennecossett Parkway, noted that an executive session was held tonight about William Seely School, but prior to the meeting an article was printed in the newspaper regarding what would be talked about. She stated that information is not shared with the Economic Development Commission (EDC) unless the developer asks to come to the EDC. The EDC will be preparing a plan to present to the Council to make the committee more productive. Ms. Obrey encouraged Councilors to think outside the box when considering economic proposals.

John Scott, 674 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, RTM member, stated that at a recent RTM meeting he proposed that the RTM utilize power of initiative to create a Groton RTM Economic Development Corporation. He requested that he be allowed the opportunity to give the presentation to the Town Council.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Cerf believes that the article on the property discussed in executive session was just the result of good investigative reporting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0292 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

The Mayor expressed the Town's gratitude for the many contributions.

2013-0283

Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Margaret and Frank Adams - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Judith Amoriello - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Marilyn Baird - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Adele Barclay - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Charles and Maura Bonner - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Audrey Burgess - \$2.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Juliet Cafaro - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Marian Galbraith - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Elisa Giommi - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Joseph Grieco - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Elizabeth Hogan - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Kay Janney - \$35.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
A. J. Jerolman - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Michael and Pamela Maffia - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Judy and Stephen Mann - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Gloria Marshall - \$40.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Helen Moore - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Gail Narita - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Bao Nguyen - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Thomas Powden - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Margaret Robertson - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
David and Raquel Rosario - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Debra Russ - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Marilyn and John Turkowski - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
William White - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Nancy Winkler - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Donna Cash - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
E. C. Lambert - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic Rotary - \$54.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic Rotary/Groton Lions/Liberty Bank - \$1,678.75 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Rotary/Groton Lions/Liberty Bank - \$10,345.75 - Social Services Discretionary
Old Mystic Fire Department - \$558.50 - Social Services Discretionary
Jennifer Philpot - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Gerald and Mary Ellen Piserchia - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
BPOE #2163 - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Christ United Methodist Church - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes Residents Association - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Judith Reed - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program - \$1,000 - Library Miscellaneous
Robert Ashworth - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Bill Kreinsen - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - 323.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Frank and Linda Ello - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Town PBA - \$154.00 - Social Services Discretionary
J. Dempsey Associates - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Russ Musante - \$125.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Palm - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary
Poquonnock Bridge Baptist Church - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$631.71 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Angelo Baruffa - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$7.67 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Simon and Kathleen Borys - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Cheryl and David Burnett - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Judith Currier - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Bruno and Jane Giuliani - \$125.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Charles and Rosemary Hall - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Diane and Edward Kolnaski - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Donna and Teri Labranche - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Demetrios Orphanides - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ryan and Madison Roman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
James and Ann Sailors - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anthony and Andrea Skiff - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Suisman, Shapiro - \$1,000 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Bette Thomson - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program
Richard Turner - \$250.00 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0294**Tax Refund****RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX REFUND**

WHEREAS, the following, for the reason indicated, has overpaid taxes in the amount specified, and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has recommended the amount be refunded, be it

RESOLVED, that the tax refunds indicated below are hereby approved.

Deruda Holdings LLC - \$14,561.48 - Excess Payments

Deruda Holdings LLC - \$167.91 - Excess Payments

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2013-0282****Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0295**Connecticut Humanities Grant**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0298**Professional Services for Recent Bond Authorization Referenda**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2013-0300**Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Watson, Councilor Somers, and Councilor Cerf attended the swearing in of the RTM and saw John Scott's presentation on a Groton RTM Economic Development Corporation.

Councilor Watson attended the swearing in of the Board of Education and an Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce breakfast honoring the social service community. He noted that a Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting will be held January 8, 2014.

Councilor Somers attended meetings with downtown Mystic merchants and a meeting with the Mystic Schooners. She also attended the Builders & Remodelers Association of Eastern CT dinner at which David Preka was recognized as 2013 Remodeler of the Year. Councilor Somers thanked those who helped with the holiday distributions and the churches that put the boxes together. She toured the Noank School facility.

Mayor Schmidt attended the Council of Governments meeting.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the RTM was sworn in on December 11, 2013, and elected Christine Conley as Moderator. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on January 8, 2014, at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

Councilors received a copy of the Town audit, a letter from the Groton City Mayor requesting scheduled joint meetings, and a letter from Groton Open Space Association, Inc. (GOSA) withdrawing its December 10, 2013, request for endorsement for a Grant Application to acquire the Tilcon property. The Town Manager has tried to contact GOSA to determine whether it is continuing to pursue the grant application. He noted that a special Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on January 11, 2014. The Town Manager noted that a business card is being developed for Town Councilors.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel/Appointments/Rules

Councilor Flax noted that the committee met this evening and he will give a report at the next Town Council meeting.

b. Temporary Rules Committee

Councilor Frink noted that the committee met on December 10, 2013. Minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's office. The next meeting of the Temporary Rules Committee will be held on January 14, 2014.

c. Committee of the Whole

Mayor Schmidt remarked that the following items were discussed at last two Committee of Whole meetings: a grant for Ledge Light Health District; goal setting; the 2015 budget; a grant for the library; moving funds from Contingency to Debt Service; procedures for selling Town land; the

road paving schedule for this year; denial of a cell tower on the Noank School property; and denial of GOSA's request for a letter of support to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP) for a grant to acquire the Tilcon property.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**2013-0285 Connecticut Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program Funding****CONNECTICUT OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM FUNDING**

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Frink, to authorize the Town Manager to draft a letter to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to make them aware that the Town of Groton does not support Groton Open Space Association, Inc.'s grant application to acquire the Tilcon property.

Councilor Flax feels that DEEP should know that the Town does not support GOSA's acquisition of the Tilcon property.

Councilor Cerf suggested walking the property before making a decision.

The Town Manager noted that the property is an interior parcel with limited access, but is relatively close to Route 117 and Route 184. The grant application is not due until March and Mr. Oefinger will continue to attempt to contact GOSA to see if it has withdrawn its grant application..

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor delaCruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Cerf

X. NEW BUSINESS**2013-0282 Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FOR THE LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Ledge Light Health District can apply for a Local Prevention Council grant in the amount of \$5,675, and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be used by the Groton Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Coalition for programs designed to reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and drugs in the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the Local Prevention Council Grant Application in the amount of \$5,675 for Ledge Light Health District.

A motion was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0295 Connecticut Humanities Grant**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, Connecticut Center for the Book at Connecticut Humanities offers Community Reads Grants to support "one book" initiatives in communities through Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library is requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,478 to support its 2014 One Book, One Region activities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes submission of a grant application in the amount of \$1,478 to Connecticut Humanities.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0298

Professional Services for Recent Bond Authorization Referenda

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY TO DEBT SERVICE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR FAILED BOND AUTHORIZATION REFERENDA

WHEREAS, preparing a bond authorization for referendum requires a lot of work and preparation on staff's part as well as the professional services of the Town's financial advisor and bond counsel, and

WHEREAS, professional services costs associated with long term bonding historically have been included as part of the financing costs of the bonded project with the principal and interest payments made through the Debt Services expenses, and

WHEREAS, the bond authorization failed at the November 2013 referendum and it is not known when or if another referendum would be held on the Police Station Upgrade or the Flanders Road Utility Upgrades, and

WHEREAS, since no approved projects exist to cover these costs, the payment of these professional services will be incurred by the Debt Service function which will exceed its appropriation without a transfer of funds, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a transfer of funds in the amount of \$14,650 from the General Fund's Contingency function to the Debt Service function.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on February 12, 2014.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0300

Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council makes appointments to miscellaneous and ad hoc local and regional committees as well as appointing liaisons to other groups, and

WHEREAS, upon its election every two years the Town Council should reconsider these appointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed to the groups as noted:

Boating Advisory Board Liaison - Councilor Rich Moravsik

Cable Television Advisory Council - James Loughlin, Stephen Garmon, and Dean Antipas (Terms Expire 7/1/15)

Children First Groton - Kevin Trejo

Eastern Regional Catchment Area Council - To be determined.

Economic Development Commission Liaison - Councilors Deborah Peruzzotti and Bob Frink

Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee - Mayor Rita Schmidt (Term Expires 1/1/18)

Golf Advisory Board - Councilor Bruce Flax (ex-officio, non-voting)

Long Island Sound Advisory Council - Councilor Rich Moravsik

Mystic Cooperative Task Force - Mayor Rita Schmidt

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee - Councilor Joe de la Cruz

Pequot Woods Board of Trustees - Mayor Rita Schmidt

Plan of Conservation and Development Steering Committee - Councilor Genevieve Cerf
School Facilities Initiative Task Force - Councilor Heather Somers (ex-officio, representing the Mayor), Councilor Joe de la Cruz, and Jane Dauphinais
School Readiness Council - Mayor Rita Schmidt
Southeast Area Transit - Councilor Joe de la Cruz and Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger (Terms Expire 12/1/15)
Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments - Mayor Rita Schmidt and Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger (Alternate)
Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. - Gayle Jones (Term Expires 12/1/15)
Town Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Councilors Harry Watson, Bruce Flax, Bob Frink, and Genevieve Cerf

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following appointments have been reviewed and affirmed by the Town Council:

Eastern Tourism District - Nancie Keenan
New London Ledge Lighthouse Board of Directors - Mayor Rita Schmidt and James Streeter
Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority - Gary Schneider and John Carrington (Terms Expire 4/16/15)
Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board - Dean Antipas and Mary Lou Smith (Terms Expire 9/1/15)
Trails Coordinating Task Force - Denise Descheneaux, Carla Henschel, and Bernard French (Terms Expire 1/1/16)

A motion was made by Councilor delaCruz, seconded by Councilor Cerf, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Moravsik suggested the following referrals: an RFP to advertise for a Town Attorney; a joint meeting with the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to discuss the disposition of Fitch Middle School; a joint meeting with the Town, City, and Groton Long Point police chiefs to discuss the police study; and joint meeting(s) with the Town, City, Groton Long Point, and RTM to discuss the budget process.

Councilor Cerf requested an RFP for a Bonding Attorney.

The Town Manager noted that there were referrals to cover some of these items except for the disposition of Fitch Middle School.

2014-0021

Disposition of Fitch Middle School

DISPOSITION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Per Councilor Moravsik's suggestion, Mayor Schmidt made a referral for a joint meeting with the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools to discuss the disposition of Fitch Middle School.

Other Business Continued:

Councilor delaCruz requested a progress report for the Noank School farming project.

Councilors discussed the public garden, the possibility of building on this parcel, and the commitment that was made to the group that is farming the school property.

Mayor Schmidt noted that the farming project group has six months to report back to the Council, which will be April.

The Town Manager also noted that there will be proposed CIPs for the complete demolition of Noank School and for the partial demolition of Noank School in the next budget.

Mayor Schmidt stated that the Council made a commitment and when a proposal is made in April, the Council will have the choice to accept it or not.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant